

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 GSA-02 INT-05 DODE-00

COME-00 L-03 PM-03 AID-05 OMB-01 H-02 STR-04 XMB-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7071

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UNCLAS LA PAZ 4305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BL

SUBJECT: RUMORED GSA TIN SALES

1. ACCORDING TO A DIARIO ARTICLE OF JUNE 19 WITHOUT DATELINE, THE MINISTER OF MINING AND METALLURGY, COL. ZELAYA, SAID THAT HE PLACED NO IMPORTANCE ON THE RUMOR THAT THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) WAS ABOUT TO DISPOSE OF A NEW QUANTITY OF TIN SINCE THE GOB HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED AS USUALLY OCCURS IN SUCH CASES. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE INCLUSION OF "POPULAR CHINA" AND THE U.S. IN THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC) IS VERY IMPORTANT AS THESE NATIONS WOULD THEN BE SUBJECT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN REGARD TO TIN SALES. HE WAS QUOTED AS ADDING "IF BOTH COLOSSI ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES TO THE ITC IT WOULD BE A WONDERFUL SOLUTION THAT WOULD ELIMINATE ANCIETIES OF THE SMALL PRODUCERS BECAUSE THE VOLUMES WITH WHICH THEY OPERATE ARE LARGE ."

2. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT IT IS BEING RUMORED WITHIN MEDIUM MINING SECTOR THAT GSA PLANS TO SELL 7,000 TONS OF TIN.

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NEVERTHELESS, EVEN THAT SECTOR IS REPORTED AS CONSIDERING THIS

RUMOR AS PURE SPECULATION OR A FORM OF PRESSURE THAT UNNAMED
PARTIES MAY BE USING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FIFTH INTER-
NATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT. BOLIVIAN PRIVATE MINERS ARE
REPORTED AS BELIEVING THAT GSA SALES UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF THE
LOW PRICE AND THAT IT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY IMPOLITIC FOR
THE U.S. TO TAKE SUCH AN UNLIKELY STEP TOWARDS THE PRODUCING
COUNTRIES WITH WHOM IT MAINTAINS THE BEST RELATIONS.
STEDMAN

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